

you to the United States and to the *Casa Blanca*. [Laughter]

This is not only a state dinner; it's like a family gathering. The most important ties between your country and mine, Mr. President, go beyond economics and politics and geography. They are the ties of heritage, culture, and family. This is true for millions of Mexican and American families, including my own.

The Mexican people have changed and enriched America. Together, our nations are now working to strengthen the Americas. A long border lies between us, but it does not divide us. Nearly one million people cross that border every day; a quarter-trillion dollars worth of trade crosses it every year. Because of the visionary NAFTA agreement of 1994, the trade between us crosses in ever greater freedom. That's a benefit to both our peoples and a model to the world.

A sound foreign policy begins by ensuring the safety and security of the neighborhood we share. A good neighborhood is made by good neighbors. And good neighbors work as we are working, with shared obligations and mutual respect.

Mr. President, you and I are keeping the pledges we made in Guanajuato this past winter to expand the freedom of trade, to build an equitable prosperity, and to honor the rule of law.

We have before us a great prospect, an era of prosperity in a hemisphere of liberty. In this task, our cooperation is broad and unprecedented. Our sense of trust is strong, and it's growing.

A century and a half ago, another occupant of this house, Abraham Lincoln, paused in the darkest hour of this country's history to send a word of hope to Mexico. Lincoln knew how closely the fates of our two countries were linked. And he never lost faith in the character of our two people. In April of 1861, he directed his Secretary of State to tell Mexico of his high respect for the heroism of their people, and above all, their inextinguishable love of civil liberty.

My message to the Mexican people is the same. The respect of my Nation endures, and it deepens. The United States has no more important relationship in the world than our relationship with Mexico. Each of our coun-

tries is proud of our independence, our freedom, and our democracy. We are united by values and carried forward by common hopes.

And so, Mr. President, speaking friend to friend, partner to partner, neighbor to neighbor, I offer a toast to you, to your gracious wife, and to your great nation.

NOTE: The President spoke at 8:30 p.m. in the State Dining Room at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to Cardinal Roger Mahony, Archbishop of Los Angeles; and Martha Sahagun de Fox, wife of President Fox. The transcript released by the Office of the Press Secretary also included the remarks of President Fox.

### **Remarks Announcing the Appointment of John Danforth as Special Envoy for Peace to The Sudan**

*September 6, 2001*

I'm pleased to announce today my appointment of John Danforth of Missouri as America's envoy for peace in the Sudan. It's my honor to welcome the former United States Senator, his wife, Sally, and distinguished guests here to the Rose Garden for this important announcement.

I am under no illusions: Jack Danforth has taken on an incredibly difficult assignment. The degree of difficulty is high. But this is an issue that is really important. It is important to this administration—it's important to the world—to bring some sanity to the Sudan.

I'm honored to be on the stage with our Secretary of State, who is doing a fabulous job for America. When he speaks, the world listens. And when he speaks on this subject, the world will listen.

I'm honored to welcome Members of the United States Congress who have taken this issue very seriously. Thank you all for coming. And I want to thank members of the diplomatic corps who are here, as well.

For nearly two decades, the Government of Sudan has waged a brutal and shameful war against its own people. And this isn't right, and this must stop. The Government has targeted civilians for violence and terror. It permits and encourages slavery. And the

responsibility to end the war is on their shoulders. They must now seek the peace, and we want to help.

Today, the tragedy in Sudan commands the attention and compassion of the world. For our part, we're committed to pursuing a just peace, which will spare that land from more years of sorrow.

We're committed to bringing stability to the Sudan, so that many loving Americans, nongovernmental organizations, will be able to perform their duties of love and compassion within that country without fear of reprisal.

Recently, I appointed a humanitarian envoy, Andrew Natsios, the administrator of USAID, to address the material needs. Today I take a step further. By naming a distinguished American, a former United States Senator and ordained minister, a man of enormous respect, the United States will continue to signal to the rest of the world our interest in this subject, our desire to bring governments together to achieve a lasting peace.

I will repeat what I told Jack in the Oval Office: Our administration is deeply committed—is deeply committed—to bringing good folks together, from within our country and the leadership of other nations, to get this issue solved once and for all. It's a test of the compassion of the world.

As I said, the degree of difficulty is high. Jack Danforth brings a realistic assessment to what is possible. But he also brings a big heart and enormous amounts of energy and a great commitment. And so it is my honor to bring a good man back into Government to take on a difficult yet important assignment.

Please welcome John Danforth.

NOTE: The President spoke at 10:30 a.m. in the Rose Garden at the White House. The transcript released by the Office of the Press Secretary also included the remarks of former Senator Danforth.

## **Remarks on Departure With President Fox for Toledo, Ohio, and an Exchange With Reporters**

*September 6, 2001*

**President Bush.** Thank you very much. The President and I are about to get on Marine One and then Air Force One and fly to Toledo, Ohio. I look forward to a joint appearance in the heartland of America. We're going to have a great day in Toledo.

We had a great day here yesterday as well. Not only did we have a successful state dinner last night, but we had a series of meetings that confirmed our close relationship and built on our trust. As I said, Mexico is an incredibly important part of the United States' foreign policy. It is our most important relationship, because Mexico is our neighbor, and neighbors must work together. And we do.

We're confronting a series of opportunities and issues. Over the past hours, we discussed the importance of NAFTA, not only between Canada and Mexico and the United States but free trade throughout the hemisphere.

We discussed a variety of issues that relate to trade. Trucking is an issue about which we had a long discussion. Mexican trucks ought to be moving in the United States. I call upon Congress to take that provision out of the appropriations bill. Otherwise, I will veto the bill.

We talked about some commodity issues that we have faced. We had an issue on avocados, for example. For those of you avocado lovers, you'll be pleased to hear that we've solved that problem, and I believe the President is pleased with the progress we're making.

When we trade as much as we do, there are going to be issues that inevitably arise. And we will deal with those with mutual respect and honest discourse.

Secondly, I'm pleased to report that we've made great progress in cooperation in fighting crime. The President told me yesterday about some additional criminals who have